

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 049787

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, IR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR VERIFICATION OF ALLEGATIONS
CONCERNING LARGE BUSINESS DEAL IN IRAN

1. MR. SOLOMON KATZ, OF STRICK CORP., CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN LAWSUIT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, HAS BEEN SUBPOENED TO TESTIFY IN THAT LAWSUIT ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12. KATZ HAS REQUESTED THAT HIS TESTIMONY BE DELAYED, ALLEGING THAT HE IS QUOTE COMMITTED TO A VITAL BUSINESS TRIP OUT OF THE COUNTRY (TO IRAN) THROUGH THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 6 THROUGH MARCH 20, 1975... IT IS PART OF A REGULAR SERIES OF TRIPS INVOLVING NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN EXTREMELY LARGE CONTRACT UPON WHICH MR. KATZ HAS BEEN REGULARLY SHUTTLLING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAN OVER THE PAST YEAR... THE NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVE A CONTRACT BETWEEN PETITIONER, ASSOCIATED COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN, INVOLVING AMOUNTS WELL IN EXCESS OF ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS (DOLS. 100,000,000). END QUOTE. KATZ HAS SUPPORTED HIS ALLEGATION WITH A TELEGRAM FROM ONE M.A. BAGHERZADEH IN TEHRAN TO THE EFFECT THAT KATZ SHOULD ARRIVE IN TEHRAN BY FRIDAY, MARCH 7, AT THE LATEST, IN ORDER TO NEGOTIATE ON THE MATTER ON SATURDAY, MARCH 8.

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2. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS OFFERED TO ADVANCE KATZ'S TESTIMONY DATE TO SATURDAY, MARCH 8, BUT KATZ HAS INSISTED HE MUST DEPART MARCH 7. IMPORTANT TO JUSTICE THAT KATZ'S TESTIMONY NOT BE DELAYED UNTIL HIS RETURN FROM TEHRAN.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO REPORT WHAT IT IS ABLE TO LEARN CONCERNING ALLEGED DEAL BETWEEN STRICK CORP. AND GOI (INCLUDING ITS MAGNITUDE) AND THE NECESSITY THAT KATZ BE IN TEHRAN MARCH 8. BAGHERZADEH MAY BE ABLE TO HELP. REPLY REQUESTED BY NOON, WASHINGTON TIME, MARCH 6. INGERSOLL

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